GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1053
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
HOLY WATER FROM MECCA
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haj pilgrims are yet to receive their share of Zam Zam (holy water) even after returning from Mecca;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) While a majority of pilgrims on return have received their container of Zam Zam, around 18,000 pilgrims are yet to receive it.

(b) An arrangement has been in place with the airlines transporting the pilgrims viz. Air India and Saudi Arab Airlines to supply Zam Zam to the pilgrims at disembarkation points in India. This year, due to seasonal shortage of Zam Zam locally, both the airlines faced difficulties in obtaining Zam Zam for supplying it to the pilgrims which has led to this shortfall.

(c) The matter has been taken up by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah with the Saudi authorities to allow Air India to carry the backlog of about 18,000 cans of Zam Zam to India for distribution to the pilgrims concerned and this is under active consideration of the Saudi authorities.